

Monthly Funding Information February 2020

Below is a list of current grants and funding opportunities primarily for Voluntary & Community Sector Groups and Organisations, Charities and Social Enterprises.

Where the Grant title includes an asterisk (*), Local Authorities and other partner organisations may also be eligible to apply for the funding.

This information can also be accessed via the Leicestershire Communities [website](#) .

Please note that Leicestershire County Council has a contract with [Voluntary Action LeicesterShire](#) (VAL) to provide support to voluntary and community sector organisations in Leicestershire, including help with identifying and securing funding. If you are a VCS organisation who is seeking to apply for funding, or bid for contracts, please contact VAL's Sector Support Team for assistance, advice and guidance. The funding support you can access includes help with a funding search, checking the relevance of the fund to your funding aspirations, and a read and review of your bid. You can also sign up for further e-bulletins from VAL, including, news, information, events, funding opportunities and job vacancies. More details can be seen on the VAL [website](#) or you can request support via <https://valonline.org.uk/contact/>

Please use the links in the table below to go directly to the relevant section:

Funding for projects which support Adults (including older people, veterans and disabilities)	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
The Energy Saving Trust - Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme	19 th Feb 2020
Access (The Foundation for Social Investment)- Enterprise Development Programme	20 th Feb 2020
Smart Energy GB - in Communities Fund 2020 *	21 st Feb 2020
This Girl Can - Community Fund	25 th Feb 2020
Positive Pathways Programme - Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund	6 th March 2020
Hospice UK - Rank Foundation Awards	23 rd March 2020
Funding for projects which support Young People (including young people with disabilities)	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
Access (The Foundation for Social Investment)- Enterprise Development Programme	13 th Feb 2020
Co-op Foundation - #iwill Fund	24 th Feb 2020
The Y Heritage fund	28 th Feb 2020
Awards for Young Musicians	27 th April 2020

<u>Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes</u>	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
<u>PRS Foundation – Open Fund</u>	12th Feb 2020
<u>Canoe Foundation - Funding to Support the Increase of Canoeing in 2020</u>	28th Feb 2020
<u>Leicestershire County Council SHIRE Environment Grant</u>	28th Feb 2020
<u>Ministry of Defence - Armed Forces Day Grants</u>	1st March 2020
<u>Swimathon Foundation - Community Grants scheme</u>	13th March 2020
<u>Leicestershire County Council - Community Kitchen Fund</u>	31st March 2020
<u>William and Jane Morris Fund - Church Conservation Grants</u>	31st March 2020
<u>Wesleyan Foundation – Large Grants</u>	1st May 2020
<u>George Ernest Ellis Foundation</u>	29th May 2020
<u>Sport England - Major Event Volunteer Fund</u>	January 2021
<u>Tesco - Bags of Help Grants Programme *</u>	Open
<u>Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation</u>	Open
<u>The Department for Transport - 500m Rail Investment to Reverse Beeching Closures *</u>	Open soon
<u>Support available for your organisation</u>	

Funding for projects which support Adults

[The Energy Saving Trust - Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme](#)

Charitable organisations that support energy customers in Great Britain are invited to apply for grants to support individual energy consumers in vulnerable situations.

The Energy Saving Trust has been appointed by Ofgem to distribute payments to charities from energy companies who have breached rules. The Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme will be administered until 2021.

The priority of the scheme is to support individual energy consumers in vulnerable situations, with a small percentage of the fund available to support innovative products and services that will help existing or future energy consumers.

The funds can pay for anything from making a home more energy efficient, to providing advice that helps consumers keep on top of their bills.

A total of £17 million is being provided for Round Six.

The minimum grant that can be requested is £20,000 and the maximum amount of funding available through the scheme varies throughout the year and will be reviewed on a quarterly basis in October, January, April and July.

Charitable organisations that support energy customers in England, Scotland and Wales are eligible to apply.

The deadline for applications to Round Six is 19th February 2020.

[Access \(The Foundation for Social Investment\)- Enterprise Development Programme](#)

Capacity-building grants and business aid are available to charities and social enterprises working in the homelessness, youth, mental health, and equality sectors to help them make the transition to new enterprises or to grow existing ones.

The Enterprise Development Programme is a five-year, £40 million initiative that is funded by Access - The Foundation for Social Investment and managed by a coalition of partners, including Social Investment Business, Homeless Link, Equally Ours, the Association of Mental Health Providers, and the Centre for Youth Impact.

The programme provides business and financial support to charities and social enterprises in England that are thinking of exploring new enterprise models and require financial or business support to make the transition, with the ultimate aim of taking on social investment in the future. Following a successful one-year pilot, which focused on organisations in the homelessness and youth sectors, the programme is now being extended, with further sectors to be added each year until at least 2024.

It is currently open to applications from not-for-profit organisations in England working in the following areas:

- Youth - The current round is only open to organisations which have already received a feasibility grant, or which participated in the learning programme as part of the pilot phase of the Enterprise Learning Programme.
- Homelessness
- Mental health
- Equality (specifically organisations working to advance equality and human rights in relation to women, black and ethnic minority people, LGBT+ people, or disabled people).

Successful applicants will be given the opportunity to work with the programme partners to ascertain what they need to progress their ideas and build the resilience of their organisation. Individual packages of financial and business support are available, which could include any or all of the following:

- Grants of up to £30,000 to research or test out new ideas, to launch new enterprises or grow existing ones. (Grants are likely to be conditional on evidence of growing income streams, using methods such as MatchTrading).
- Joining a peer cohort to share enterprise journeys.
- Training and learning opportunities tailored to needs.
- Direct advice and support.

Deadline for expressions of interest:

Youth Sector - 13th February 2020

Homelessness - 20th February 2020

Mental Health - 3rd March 2020

Equality - 9th April 2020

[Smart Energy GB - in Communities Fund 2020](#) *

The Smart Energy GB in Communities Fund was set up by Smart Energy GB, the national consumer engagement body supporting the smart meter rollout across England, Scotland, and Wales. This year grants of between £15,000 and £25,000 and other support are available to regionally based organisations that can deliver support to people over the age of 65 who are currently unaware of smart meters and who are unlikely to have personal internet access and/or who are on a low income.

Applications will be considered from regionally based organisations ideally with local networks with substantial face-to-face reach that can deliver support to people over the age of 65 (ideally around 1,500 people supported).

Projects need to address the objectives of the fund, which are to:

- Address the concerns that people aged over 65 have about smart meters.
- Limit rejection of smart meters and ensure people aged over 65 unaware of smart meters have the opportunity to understand and engage with the smart meter rollout.
- Increase the number of people aged over 65 getting a smart meter.

All projects must be completed by 9 December 2020.

The deadline for applications is Friday 21st February 2020.

[This Girl Can - Community Fund](#)

This Girl Can Community Fund is supported with funding from the National Lottery and administered by Sport England. Grants are available for group activities that support women aged 16 years and older to get active by overcoming barriers. The funding is intended for local community projects that will contribute to overcoming the barriers some women face in getting active, whether from a lack of opportunities in their local area to the cost and availability of childcare.

Grants ranging from a few hundred pounds to up to £10,000 are available to not-for-profit organisations, voluntary or community clubs, registered charities or community interest companies to support activities that increase the heart rate of women aged 16 years and over. Ideas for activities could be anything from Bollywood dancing, to walking, boxing, or yoga, etc. Groups are welcomed to submit their 'big idea'. Ideas can have a short-term focus or provide longer-term support to help women achieve sustainable behaviour change. The decisions on which ideas to support will be based on the difference that can be made with the funding rather than the items or services bought with it.

Consideration will also be given to:

- Individuals who would like funding for a group activity which is not for individual gain.
- Organisations established to make a profit provided their project does not realise a distributable profit.
- Other social enterprises.
- Schools.
- Statutory bodies.

There is a two-stage application process.

The deadline for the submission of ideas is 25th February 2020.

Positive Pathways Programme - Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

Armed Forces charities have until early March to submit their funding application for projects and activities that support the mental health and wellbeing of veterans throughout the UK.

Applications are accepted from registered charities or Community Interest Companies (CIC) that have veterans or serving personnel and/or their families as their sole or primary beneficiaries. It will also accept applications from charities or CICs with a proven experience of working with veterans and that have (within the last two years) delivered substantial projects or programmes of work specifically supporting veterans

They can apply for fixed one-year grants of £35,000 or two-year grants of £70,000 before the programme ends.

The funding is for activity-based projects (such as sports, arts, culture, heritage or getting outside) that will have a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of veterans throughout the UK. Priority will be given to applications from small and local (rather than national) organisations, and those whose projects are led or partly led by veterans.

Separately, groups that would like to have a say on a new local funding programme that will support UK veterans can complete a short questionnaire on the Armed Forces Covenant Trust website. The consultation closes at midnight on 6 March 2020.

The final closing date for applications is 6th March 2020.

Hospice UK - Rank Foundation Awards

Hospice UK supports hospices in the UK in their vital work on the frontline of caring for people facing the end of life and caring for their families. Grants of up to £20,000 available for capital projects in adult hospices in the UK that are members of Hospice UK.

The charity is offering support for projects that improve the physical environment within which hospices deliver care. The programme is primarily to support capital costs but revenue costs that help deliver the capital activity can be included in the project costs – however revenue costs must not be the primary expense. It is important that the project should demonstrate a direct impact to patients and their families.

In 2020 the theme is Enhancing Wellbeing.

Adult hospices based in the UK that are full members of Hospice UK are eligible under this scheme.

Total available funding for the current round is £100,000 and grants of up to £20,000 are available.

[There are additional open grant programmes for hospices and their staff.](#)

The deadline for applications is 23rd March 2020.

Funding for projects which support Young People

[Access \(The Foundation for Social Investment\)- Enterprise Development Programme](#)

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The Enterprise Development Programme is a five-year, £40 million initiative that is funded by Access - The Foundation for Social Investment and managed by a coalition of partners, including Social Investment Business, Homeless Link, Equally Ours, the Association of Mental Health Providers, and the Centre for Youth Impact.

The programme provides business and financial support to charities and social enterprises in England that are thinking of exploring new enterprise models and require financial or business support to make the transition, with the ultimate aim of taking on social investment in the future. Following a successful one-year pilot, which focused on organisations in the homelessness and youth sectors, the programme is now being extended, with further sectors to be added each year until at least 2024.

It is currently open to applications from not-for-profit organisations in England working in the following areas:

- Youth - The current round is only open to organisations which have already received a feasibility grant, or which participated in the learning programme as part of the pilot phase of the Enterprise Learning Programme.
- Homelessness
- Mental health
- Equality (specifically organisations working to advance equality and human rights in relation to women, black and ethnic minority people, LGBT+ people, or disabled people).

Successful applicants will be given the opportunity to work with the programme partners to ascertain what they need to progress their ideas and build the resilience of their organisation. Individual packages of financial and business support are available, which could include any or all of the following:

- Grants of up to £30,000 to research or test out new ideas, to launch new enterprises or grow existing ones. (Grants are likely to be conditional on evidence of growing income streams, using methods such as MatchTrading).
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Co-op Foundation - #iwill Fund

A limited number of grants are available for projects in England to help young people support each other and improve wellbeing as they move from primary to secondary school.

The overall focus of the #iwill Fund is supporting social action that draws on young people's own lived experience, in order to:

- Connect young people to social action opportunities that lead to genuine community impact.
- Empower them through the difference this makes for themselves and their peers.

This round focuses on peer-to-peer support to improve children's wellbeing during the period in which they move from primary to secondary school. This might typically begin any time during School Years 5 or 6 and continue into Years 7 to 8.

It is expected that eight grants of up to £35,000 each will be awarded in this round. Successful applicants may also be able to apply for continuation funding after one year.

The funding can be used for any costs related to carrying out the project.

Applications will be accepted from Multi-Academy Trusts, schools, charities, social enterprises, or other constituted voluntary or community organisations with a UK bank account in the organisation's name and at least two unconnected people on the board or management committee

Applications are welcomed from organisations working in partnership, including approaches which involve both voluntary and public sectors such as a collaboration between a school and community organisation.

A further round which focuses on peer-to-peer support for young people who have experienced bereavement is due to launch in February.

The deadline for applications is 24th February 202.

The Y Heritage Fund

The Y has been awarded £707,500 through the Heritage Lottery Fund's pioneering "Kick the Dust" funding programme. "Y Heritage" is a collaboration between The Y, local universities and local authorities, and a range of heritage, cultural and creative organisations from across Leicester and Leicestershire.

Y Heritage will run a series of "Dragons Den" style pitches over three years where Leicester/Leicestershire based organisations can apply for funding of up to £30,000 from a panel of young people. The young people all engage in some way with The Y. The applicants must build opportunities for work or training into their project funding application. The aim is that young people and the heritage projects develop and thrive together.

The definition of Heritage is wide-ranging and includes many things from the past that should be preserved for future generations. This does not mean it is solely historic sites or buildings.

Y Heritage will work to two commissioning and training cycles a year over a three-year period; one which takes place between September and December; and another which takes places between February and May.

The deadline for the next commissioning round is Friday 28th February 2020.

Awards For Young Musicians

Small grants to support the UK's most talented young instrumentalists who because of financial need may be prevented from fulfilling their creative potential.

This annual programme is aimed at families that are struggling to pay for the next key step in their child's musical progression. The grants aim to help with many of the major costs of music education for instrumentalists between the ages of 5 and 17 years.

Support is available for instrumentalists making music in any genre.

The young musician must satisfy one of the following residency conditions:

- The young person has been resident in the British Islands for the past three years.
- The young person is a national of a member state of the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland and is the child of a migrant worker.
- The young person is a refugee or the child of a refugee who has not been ordinarily resident outside the British Islands since being recognised as a refugee or granted leave to enter or remain in the British Islands.

The funding is intended to help with many of the major costs of music education, including the following:

- Instrumental tuition costs.
- Purchasing or hiring of an instrument or computer.
- Access to suitable rehearsal space or making alterations to practise at home.
- Purchasing instrumental accessories such as cases, bows, reeds, light-weight instrument case, etc.
- Fees for long-term music courses such as Saturday school fees.
- Travel for attending long-term music courses (where the young musician has a long journey).
- Purchasing sheet music.
- Exam entry fees.
- Audition fees and associated travel costs.

Up to £100,000 is awarded each year. Although the average grant awarded is £500, applicants can request a maximum of £2,000. All awards are made to institutions, music organisations, music teachers and other suppliers and not directly to students or their families.

The closing date for applications is 27th April 2020.

Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes

PRS Foundation – Open Fund for Organisations*

The PRS Foundation is the UK's leading independent funder of new music and talent development across all genres. It provides the Open Fund for Organisations with the aim of helping to support, sustain and promote the growth of the new music infrastructure in the UK.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to support new music projects led by promoters, large performance groups, talent development organisations, venues, festivals and curators in the UK.

The Foundation's current funding priorities are:

- To support the creation, performance and promotion of outstanding new music in any genre, with particular interest in the quality of music.
- To enable the UK's most talented music creators to realise their potential, with interest in how the project will develop the songwriters and composers involved.
- To inspire audiences UK-wide. This includes audiences at a local, regional, national or international level.

Projects must have a clearly defined start/end date and take place within one year of receiving the grant.

The funding can support a range of activities including touring, recording, commission of new music, exciting community projects involving high-quality music creators, and music creator residencies.

Applications are accepted from any not-for-profit organisations based in the UK with an eligible project.

The Open Fund for Organisations has changed from a two-stage application process to a one-stage application process. From January 2020, applicants will be asked to provide details about the project, how it will benefit the creators involved, the activity timeline and balanced budget in one application form.

Please note that bands and small musical groups are no longer considered by The Open Fund as Organisations and should now apply as [Music Creators](#)

The 2020 deadlines for applications are 12th February, 8th June and 5th October.

Canoe Foundation - Funding to Support the Increase of Canoeing in 2020

Clubs and community groups across the UK that want to increase participation in canoeing can apply now for a grant to support their project in 2020.

The grant funding is for projects that will improve accessibility to waterways and facilities thereby enabling greater use of them. There is particular interest in enabling enhanced participation in paddle sports for all people.

In each of its quarterly funding round, the Canoe Foundation focuses on supporting projects in a certain priority area.

The current focus is on:

- Increasing and protecting public access points, steps or platforms.
- Improving the suitability of launching and landing sites, to and alongside water, for all sectors of the community.

Although clubs and community groups can apply for grants of between £2,000 and £10,000, most grants awarded are in the 2,500 to £5,000 range.

The first application deadline in 2020 is 28th February.

Leicestershire County Council - SHIRE Environment Grant

Leicestershire County Council has recently launched its new SHIRE Environment Grant. This programme has been established to support the delivery of community-based projects which are focused on waste prevention and reuse, reducing carbon emissions and improving biodiversity.

This new scheme will be replacing the current SHIRE Recycling Grant and SHIRE Climate Change Grant, which are now in their final rounds of funding.

Grants of up to £3,000 will be available through the new scheme, with applications for the first round closing on Friday 28th February 2020. Grants will be available for any of the following organisations:

- constituted village/community groups
- community enterprises
- registered charities
- town/parish councils
- community managed libraries
- schools and colleges
- places of worship

Projects could include ideas such as repair cafes, reuse libraries, community gardens and improving energy efficiency of community buildings.

Deadline for applications is 28th February 2020

Ministry of Defence - Armed Forces Day Grants

The Ministry of Defence offers a grant for Armed Forces Day (27th June 2020) events up to the value of £10,000, depending on the size and format of the event. This grant is match-funded and can cover up to half the total cost of the event. For example, If the total cost of the event is £10,000 and you raise £5,000, the grant could cover up to £5,000.

To apply for this grant, you must first register your event on the Armed Forces Day website.

Ministry of Defence funding can be used to pay for:

- road closures required to hold an event, including to allow for parades and marches
- decorations, flags and banners
- newspaper and radio advertisements to promote the event
- marshalling, security and first aid arrangements for the event
- insurance
- PA and communications systems

Ministry of Defence funding cannot be used to pay for:

- hospitality, including food, drinks and accommodation
- military assets, including displays, equipment or military vehicles
- entertainment, such as bands or musicians, films or other entertainment
- transport for guests or organisers
- VAT

Application deadline 1st March 2020

Swimathon Foundation - Community Grants scheme

Funding for groups and individuals across the UK who provide and promote swimming in their local community.

Grants of between £500 and £2,500 are available to support sustainable activities that will increase participation in swimming and are provided outside of, and in addition to, the stated formal pool programme.

Grants will only be awarded to organisations supported by pools that are participating in Swimathon 2020. Project must take place at a Swimathon pool or Open Water Swimathon venue and have sign off from the Pool or Venue Manager or their delegated main contact for this project to take place.

Applicants must demonstrate in their application how the funding will allow them to:

- Introduce people to swimming who would otherwise not swim.
- Increase the frequency that existing swimmers go to the pool.
- Improve the swimming experience for new or existing swimmers.

Organisations including community groups, swimming clubs, senior groups, youth groups, sports clubs, disability charities, scout groups and healthy living groups in the UK are eligible to apply.

The deadline for applications is 13th March 2020.

Leicestershire County Council - Community Kitchen Fund

A community kitchen is a space where people can come together to cook and eat. They've existed in one form or another for many years; soup kitchens, foodbanks, public canteens and social eating projects are just a few of the different types of community kitchens.

A community kitchen can be what you and your community wants or needs it to be. However, Leicestershire County Council is offering funding to help establish community kitchens (in the County) that have household food waste prevention at their heart.

Leicestershire County Council has put together a support package to help Leicestershire communities establish new community kitchens, and or to provide access to training for staff and volunteers at existing community kitchens to allow them in turn to provide training on the food waste issue to others.

To apply for the funding, your proposed community kitchen project should meet the following criteria:

- It has to have food waste prevention at its heart
- It must be led by volunteers
- It has to serve Leicestershire residents
- An appropriate and responsible organisation must lead on the application process; manage the grant payments, and produce impact reports as required. Registered charities, Parish Councils and constituted community groups are examples of those eligible to apply.
- It needs to be sustainable

There are three types of grant:

Set up support – Set-up funding is intended to cover the cost of training a group of volunteers to get a community kitchen project up and running. Successful applicants can access a combination of funding, goods and services (these have a combined value of up to £6,238)

Maintenance funding – Up to £2,000 funding is available to support the ongoing activities of the community kitchen volunteers following completion of their training

Innovation fund – of up to £2,000. Once established, community kitchen volunteers may want to push themselves to try something new. Examples have included travelling to run cooking classes for new communities or providing catering services for community events.

Applications should be submitted by 31st March 2020

William and Jane Morris Fund - Church Conservation Grants

Grants between £500 and £5000 are awarded to churches, chapels and other places of worship in the United Kingdom for the conservation of decorative features and monuments, but not for structural repairs. Grants will be awarded to support smaller programmes of work concerned with the conservation of decorative or non-structural features such as:

- stained glass windows
- sculpture
- furniture
- internal monuments and tombs
- wall paintings

The decorative feature, monument, etc. must date from no later than 1896 (the year of William Morris's death).

The deadlines for applications in 2020 are 31st March and 31st August

Wesleyan Foundation – Large Grants

Applications will be considered from not for profit organisations that focus on:

- Education – Charities or projects that enhance learning and develop career opportunities.
- Health – Promote health and wellbeing. (Please note: Wesleyan does not fund Sports clubs and societies unless the project benefits disabled people).
- Social needs – Provide local solutions to meet local needs, promote community cohesion and develop sustainable and supportive communities.

Wesleyan will fund the following elements of a project:

- Salary, equipment or volunteer costs that are clearly budgeted and only used for the project.
- Start-up costs for a new project or organisation
- To extend or develop an existing project
- For pilot projects (to gather research or evidence)

Grants are available between £2,000 – £10,000 and must be spent within a year.

Round 1: Opened 1st February 2020

Deadline for applications: Friday 1st May 2020

Decisions will be made, and groups will be notified by 30th June 2020. Projects will need to start in July 2020.

Round 2: Opens 1st July 2020

Deadline for applications: Friday 30th October 2020

Decisions will be made, and groups will be notified by 30th January 2021. Projects will need to start in February 2021.

George Ernest Ellis Foundation

This is a small family trust fund established for the purpose of supporting humanitarian and socially-responsible activity within Leicester and Leicestershire. The Foundation awards grants of up to £1,500, to charitable or similar organisations. Grants should make a tangible difference, so it favours smaller organisations and projects. The Foundation is attracted to projects that mobilise voluntary activity, that are inclusive, foster good relationships in society, and that address disadvantage, neglect or marginalisation of any kind.

Please note there is no website for this fund.

Applications are by letter to the Foundation's Secretary:

Matthew Ellis, George Ernest Ellis Foundation, Stone Cottage, 4 Green Lane, Ashley, Market Harborough, LE16 8HD

Email: matthew@mywealthmanagement.co.uk

The letter should describe the group that is applying (its composition and purpose) and the project or activity for which funding is being sought. The letter should be accompanied by a simple budget indicating the annual turnover of the organisation, the total amount needed to make the proposed activity viable and the particular item to be considered for funding.

Deadline: 29th May 2020

Sport England - Major Event Volunteer Fund

Funding for national governing bodies, events hosts and other organisations to provide a path for volunteers at national sporting events to continue their volunteering experience at the grassroots level.

This fund has been set up to pilot ways to overcome the barriers people face when they consider making the transition from volunteering at major events to local grassroots volunteering.

Grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 are available for projects that:

- Test the ability to use major sports events as a catalyst to engage and then support volunteers from all backgrounds to continue their volunteering pathway within sport.
- Will specifically seek to engage volunteers who are not already volunteering within grassroots sport – funding will only be available to projects which aim to support the transition of new (or lapsed) volunteers into grassroots volunteering.
- Provide high quality, meaningful volunteering experiences.
- Can provide appropriate levels of support to volunteers post-event to identify further opportunities for them, which are appropriate to their skills, interests and availability.
- Will engage at least 100 volunteers.

Applications can be made until January 2021 or until all the funding has been committed, whichever occurs first.

[Tesco - Bags of Help Grants Programme](#) *

Local not-for-profit organisations from across the UK can apply now for a grant in 2020.

Bags of Help is Tesco's local community awards programme where the money raised from the 5p bag levy in Tesco stores is used to fund community projects across the UK.

A public vote determines which groups will receive a grant. In 2020, projects that receive the most vote will receive a grant of £2,000; second place will receive a grant of up to £1,000 and third place a grant of up to £500.

The funding can support a wide range of projects including but not limited to:

- Purchasing items which will benefit local community groups such as sports kit, specialised medical equipment, art and crafts materials, spades, litter pickers, camping equipment.
- Improvements to a building that benefits the local community such as a Scout or Guide hut, church or village hall, changing facilities for sports.
- Developing an outdoor space play area, allotment, park, school grounds, woodland or wildlife area.
- Running a community event or activity such as fun runs, village fete, clean-up day, tree planting, bird watch.
- Supporting seasonal activities such as purchasing new Christmas lights, supporting a Christmas meal for the homeless or a Diwali celebration event for the community etc.

Projects can be a stand-alone project or a discrete, self-contained part of a larger scheme or part of a phased project.

As this is a rolling programme, voting for projects will be happening continuously in Tesco stores. In 2020, three projects from each local area will be shortlisted to go to the public vote every three months.

There are no deadlines. Applications can be made at any time.

[Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation](#)

The Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation is a charity which helps local individuals and companies to give money, in a tax efficient way, directly to local needs. It does this by helping set up new local family and company charitable funds and then supports those donors to give grants to local charitable groups of their choice through the [Donor Matching Scheme](#).

The Community Foundation also administers local and national grant schemes on behalf of those organisations. These vary throughout the year, please check the [website](#).

The Department for Transport - 500m Rail Investment to Reverse Beeching Closures *

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has launched a new £500 million investment that will re-open lines and stations closed in the Beeching era cuts of the 1960s and 1970s.

Instigated by British Rail chief Dr Richard Beeching in 1963, the cuts closed more than 2,300 stations and up to 5,000 miles of track across the UK.

The Department for Transport (DfT) is inviting local authorities and community groups across England and Wales to propose how they could use the new funding to reinstate axed local services.

The DfT will hold events to listen to proposals, prioritising projects that offer the greatest potential, viability and economic benefits.

In addition to sourcing new proposals, the fund can also be used to progress the development of closed lines and stations already being considered for restoration.

Communities do not need to have been affected by the Beeching closures to be eligible for funding.

Advice on how to bid for funding will be provided at the DfT events which are still to be arranged.

A new £20 million round of the New Stations Fund is also being provided by the DfT to support both the development of new stations and restoration of old station sites.

Potential applicants should register with restoringyourrailway@dft.gov.uk for further details and updates.

Support available for your organisations

Social Investment

Social investment is a financial enablement tool which enables organisations to focus on organisational development and long-term sustainability. It can be used for buildings, infrastructure, IT, equipment, cashflow, enabling and retaining contracts and trading activities, kicking start new services/ projects or strategic positioning. Grant funding alone is not a viable source of sustainable business funding! A good place to start to find out more about social investment is the Good Finance [website](#)

Don't be put off by the fear of having to repay a loan when you first start exploring social enterprise and investment. Going on the investment readiness and social investment journey is beneficial in that it will help you to think about the direction your organisation will take and where income will be generated. It will therefore help you to develop a business mind-set. The journey is just as important as the end goal.

You are not obliged to take out a loan when developing social enterprise business models, but it is likely that you will need it if you are successful!

Grant Funds

[The Reach Fund](#)

A grant programme that helps charities and social enterprises raise investment. This fund is for organisations who need some extra support to raise investment e.g. governance, financial modelling or business planning. To access this fund, you need to approach a social investor and then complete a diagnostic tool. If approved, then you work with the social investor to develop a support plan.

[The Enterprise Development Fund Programme](#)

Offers tailored support to organisations that are thinking of exploring new models of trading to help them become more financially resilient and who require support to make the transition. The second round is going to be launched soon, and the themes are equality and mental health.

Business Support

Co-operative and Social Enterprise Development Agency (CASE) is a social enterprise and co-operative established in 1982 that is the trusted organisation for co-operatives, social enterprises and community enterprises in Leicester and Leicestershire. It supports co-operatives and social enterprises to develop and grow and we promote co-operative ways of working.

CASE has been awarded a small grant from the Connect Fund to raise awareness about social investment, support groups to develop social enterprise business models and scale up, and access social investment. The project started in January 2019 and finishes in June 2020.

If you are a social enterprise or charity in the East Midlands that has a good idea or proposal to generate income from trading then please feel free to get in touch with Natasha Jolob, Social Impact and Investment Adviser on Tel: 0116 222 5010, Email: n.jolob@case.coop

If you are interested in accessing support to develop and grow through enterprise and investment, you can contact:

[VAL Sector Support Helpline](#)

0116 2575050

helpline@valonline.org.uk

[CASE](#)

0116 222 5010

enquiries@case.coop